

SENATE FILE NO. SF0045

Dental student loan repayment program.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to a dental student loan repayment program;
2 establishing an education loan repayment program for
3 students seeking to pursue a degree in dentistry;
4 specifying requirements; providing for loan forgiveness as
5 specified; requiring reports; providing for a continuous
6 appropriation; providing an appropriation; and providing
7 for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-17-118 is created to read:

12

13 **21-17-118. Authority to offer course in dentistry**
14 **through contracts with other institutions; contracts with**
15 **students; repayment of funds expended; deposit of**
16 **repayments.**

1

2 (a) In addition to other powers granted to the
3 trustees of the University of Wyoming, the board may offer
4 and provide at other institutions, universities or
5 colleges, a course of training and education in the field
6 of dentistry.

7

8 (b) To accomplish the purposes of this section, the
9 board of trustees may enter into contracts with other
10 institutions, universities or colleges outside the state
11 that maintain schools for the training and education of
12 students in dentistry and to expend funds appropriated for
13 this purpose in connection therewith.

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15 (c) In entering into contracts with institutions, the
16 board of trustees shall give preference to institutions
17 that agree to provide students with a training rotation or
18 externship in Wyoming.

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20 (d) Students desiring to avail themselves of the
21 opportunities under this section, before enrolling for such
22 courses and having completed the admissions process into
23 the dental education program at a school of dentistry with
24 which the university has an agreement under subsection (a)

1 of this section, must be approved by the president of the
2 university acting with the advice of the state board of
3 dentistry. No student shall be approved by the president
4 unless the student or the student's father, mother or
5 lawful guardian are residents of Wyoming and have been
6 residents for not less than five (5) years immediately
7 prior thereto.

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9 (e) In addition to the requirements of subsection (c)
10 of this section, before expending any funds the board of
11 trustees shall obtain an agreement from each student
12 whereby the student agrees to:

13

14 (i) Authorize the state of Wyoming to pay the
15 costs of education incurred in his dentistry education as
16 determined by any contract between the state of Wyoming and
17 the school of dentistry providing that education: and

18

19 (A) Actively engage in professional
20 practice or other professional pursuits in dentistry in
21 Wyoming for such period as the board requires, which period
22 shall not exceed three (3) years; or

23

1 (B) Repay all amounts expended by the state
2 of Wyoming under this paragraph on the student's education,
3 together with interest which shall begin accruing after the
4 student's graduation, but in no event later than five (5)
5 years after the student enters into an agreement, upon
6 terms specified by the board. However, interest shall
7 begin to accrue if the board finds that the student has
8 withdrawn from the school of dentistry or is otherwise not
9 making satisfactory progress toward completion of the
10 degree or program. Money expended under this paragraph
11 shall accrue interest at an annual rate equal to that
12 charged for federal Stafford loans at the time interest
13 begins to accrue, which rate shall be adjusted annually to
14 match the federal Stafford loan rate. In no event shall
15 the interest rate be greater than eight percent (8%).

16

17 (ii) In exchange for a reduction in the time
18 required to practice under subparagraph (i)(A) of this
19 subsection or for other incentives specified in the
20 contract, treat under terms and conditions specified in the
21 agreement Wyoming patients eligible for services under the
22 Wyoming Medical Assistance and Services Act or the child
23 and parent health insurance program pursuant to Wyoming
24 Statutes title 35, chapter 25. All contract provisions

1 established under this paragraph shall be developed in
2 consultation with the state board of dentistry and the
3 department of health.

4

5 (f) Upon recommendation of the president of the
6 university, the board of trustees may relieve a student of
7 the obligation to repay amounts expended under paragraph
8 (d)(i) of this section, in whole or in part, where
9 repayment would cause undue hardship. The university shall
10 annually report the number of students relieved from
11 repayment under this subsection to the joint labor, health
12 and social services interim committee not later than
13 October 1.

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15 (g) Any amounts paid by dentistry students in
16 accordance with the contractual arrangements authorized
17 under this section shall be deposited into a special
18 account designated the Dentistry School Student Account,
19 maintained and separately accounted for by the University
20 of Wyoming, which account may be added to by specific
21 contributions from other sources. The account may be
22 invested, at the discretion of the president of the
23 University of Wyoming, for the production of income. The
24 investment income shall be expended by the University of

1 Wyoming for assistance and scholarships to dentistry
2 students as authorized by the president of the University
3 of Wyoming and the dean of the college of health sciences.
4 The principal of the fund established shall remain
5 unimpaired and only the income derived therefrom may be
6 collected and expended from year to year. On or before
7 October 1 of each year, the university shall submit a
8 report to the joint labor, health and social services
9 interim committee on income to the fund and expenditures
10 from fund earnings during the prior fiscal year.

11

12 **Section 2.**

13

14 (a) The University of Wyoming shall, in consultation
15 with the Wyoming board of dentistry and Wyoming
16 professional dental organizations, enter into negotiations
17 with schools of dentistry at Creighton University, the
18 University of Nebraska, and if feasible, other schools of
19 dentistry to pay the cost of education for not to exceed a
20 total of ten (10) seats annually in each class year of
21 dental students under the program created by this act.
22 Thus, when all class levels are full, the program would
23 have a maximum of forty (40) students. The University of
24 Wyoming shall pursue establishing the program to the extent

1 feasible for the fall 2007 entering classes. By October 1,
2 2007, the university shall provide a progress report to the
3 joint labor, health and social services interim committee
4 regarding the implementation of this act.

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6 (b) There is appropriated from the general fund to
7 the University of Wyoming five hundred thousand dollars
8 (\$500,000.00), or as much thereof as is necessary, for the
9 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, to implement this act,
10 including expenses related to contract negotiations with
11 dental schools, contract administration, and recruitment of
12 undergraduates into the dental profession. These funds
13 shall be included in the university's 167 medical education
14 budget and not in its block grant. Unexpended and
15 unobligated funds appropriated under this section shall not
16 revert at the end of the fiscal biennium and shall be used
17 exclusively for the program created by this act during the
18 fiscal biennium commencing July 1, 2008.

19

1 **Section 3.** This act is immediately effective upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

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(END)